

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

May 5, 2003

LB 602, 754

SENATOR CUDABACK: The motion was successful. The agenda does state that at 2:30 we move on to LB 320. That has been passed over. We will now go to General File, 2003 senator priority bills. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 602 was a bill introduced by Senator Smith and others. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 21, referred to the Judiciary Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith to open on LB 602.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Apologize for my shortness of breath. The issue came up more quickly than I had anticipated. But I appreciate the opportunity. This issue is one that might be a little difficult to grasp. I'll never claim to be a biology enthusiast, or one that even enjoyed biology class in my sophomore year of high school, and went to great lengths to avoid it throughout college. But nonetheless, there comes a time when the practical side of things does show its face. When we talk about cloning, we're talking really about two things. I'll be very honest with you, and I'll tell you that the controversy comes down to two types of cloning. One is called somatic cell nuclear transfer, otherwise known as therapeutic cloning. And then...and that's the more controversial part. And the less controversial part is cloning for the purposes of implanting the...that cell into a uterus for the purposes of reproducing a human being. There are opinions all over the place. You'll see, your handouts...and I chose a green color here because green is often an indicator of life. And I want to simply go through part of that. But I won't read it for you, because I know you're capable of doing that yourself. Also, another white copy is a statement by U.S. Representative Dave Weldon, a medical doctor in the U.S. Congress, stating why human cloning needs to be banned. Again, I won't read that, because I know you're capable of doing that. Why do I introduce this bill? And I respond to that, because of my respect for a civilized society recognizing the value of life. And there are differing opinions when it comes to this issue. But I truly believe that cloning and the efforts